

6 presence of the loop over a departing link set to a destination signaling point by at
least one of a routing test and a real time method; and

8 automatically withholding a transfer of said signaling messages via a
pertinent linkset to said destination signaling points upon a positive check result
10 outcome of said checking step.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 sending test messages via a link set to destinations that said linkset can
reach upon said positive check result outcome; and
4 automatically withholding transfer of said signaling messages to a
destination that had returning test messages upon return of said test messages.

12. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
2 withholding transfer of said signaling messages to downstream pertinent
destinations by blocking a specific departing link set of said pertinent destination
4 in a routing table of said signaling transfer point.

13. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
2 withholding transfer of said signaling messages to upstream pertinent destinations
via the pertinent link set by sending transfer prohibiting messages by the signaling
4 transfer point regarding a destination signaling point to a preceding signaling
transfer point, where upon said preceding signaling transfer point will at least
6 perform one of a functions of rerouting traffic to the destination signaling point
and stopping said traffic to the destination signaling point.

14. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
2 controlling an interruption of said loop by an operations maintenance and

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administration part.

15. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
controlling an interruption of said loop by a message transfer part.

16. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
checking a new current route for absence of loops in the signaling transfer point,
immediately after blocking a linkset in said loop.

17. A signaling system of a signaling transfer point, comprising:
a checker for detection of at least a loop or a possibility of a presence of said loop
over a departing linkset to a destination signaling point, said checker utilizes at
least one of a routing test and a real time method, wherein when a positive check
result outcome is obtained transfer of signaling messages via pertinent linksets are
automatically withheld.

18. A signaling system according to claim 17, further comprising:
a verifier for detection of said possibility of the presence of said loop, said verifier
sends test messages to destinations reachable via said departing linkset before said
signaling system withholds said transfer of signaling messages to a destination for
which said test messages return.

IN THE ABSTRACT

In line 1, change "Abstract" to --Abstract of the Disclosure--;
delete lines 2 - 7, and insert the following --

A method for detecting loops and/or the possibility of an existing loop in a
signaling system 7 network by a routing test (MRVT) and/or by a real time